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*ser, tenir, guerpir* and some others may be accompanied by the verb in *-ant* to express a state or condition existing at the time of the action of the principle verb.

Et le lessierent gisant sur une table.  
Joinville, ch. XXXVIII.

Pur mort le guerpissent en sabelum gisant  
Charoinne le tenent sans alme enfredissant.  
Vie de S. Auban, 845.

La dame ot lors le cuer joiant.  
Flore et Blanceflor, 1065.

Qu'us fis jois capdel' em nais  
Quem te jauzent en gran doussor.  
Peire Vidal, Song 22 (B.'s ed. 1857.)

The verbal in *-ant* is also used after interjections.

.....Es-le-vus relevant  
E le flot tut sechi, dunt cist vunt Deu loant.  
Vie de S. Auban, 1157.

Ast vus venant de deu fideil.  
Brandan's Voyage, 580 (Rom. St. I. 573).  
Es vous par le chemin errant  
Mon seignor Renart le goupil.

B. 266, 12.

But here, as in so many other cases, the infinitive may likewise be used. The nature of the interjection places it in the same category with verbs of *seeing, beholding*, etc. and of course the same construction is to be expected in both cases.

Ves les armes reluire: tons li cuers m'en esclaire.  
Jehan Bodel, B. 310, 26.

Ay filh, tan vos vech malmenar.  
Plainte de Notre Dame, 40.

SAMUEL GARNER.

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### THE VERB *to fell*.

Whether the economy of our language will for many more generations continue to demand an expenditure of effort—with large classes of persons it is an effort of only partial success, with others the failure is complete—for maintaining in use with proper distinction the couplets *to lie, to lay* and *to sit, to set*, is a question upon which some may be disposed to speculate. In the case of *to fall, to fell*, we have a somewhat different problem, from the circumstance of a natural restriction, more or less complete for common speech, of the use of *to fell* to regions of particular industries and occupations. I should be pleased if some of the friends of this Journal who may find it con-

venient to make observations in any of the extensive lumber districts of the country, would report the woodman's use of *to fall* and *to fell*, for I have a suspicion that in some places *to fell* has entirely disappeared, leaving to the intransitive form the burden of a double service. This suspicion is based upon my recent observation in a large axe manufacturing establishment, where I discovered the trade name for one variety of axes to be the "Falling Pattern (For Pacific Coast Trade)," and of another the "Puget Sound Falling Pattern."

JAMES W. BRIGHT.

### THE PRONOUNS IN THE OLD DANISH 'TOBIAE KOMEDIE.'

In the MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES for May, the personal pronouns occurring in the 'Tobiae Komedie' were briefly discussed. In the present paper the rest of the pronouns in that work will be treated in somewhat the same way. Many of the pronouns are represented so incompletely in the text, that it has in some cases been found inexpedient to treat them in paradigms. The personal pronouns are the most complete and satisfactory, and show the most interesting phonetic changes. Many of these might profitably be compared with corresponding forms in Anglo-Saxon and Early English, but that study must be reserved for later treatment by itself. For a consideration of the earlier forms of *hand* and *hun* reference may be made to O. KALKAR'S 'Ordbog,' the last issue of which almost completes the letter *h*. In the present paper this valuable dictionary has occasionally been used to explain the derivation of some of the pronominal forms, especially of the indefinites.

The worker in the Old Danish field constantly finds himself hampered by the want of a grammar. The paradigms have never been systematically developed, and the difficulties in the way of any comparative work are increased greatly by the lack of a complete dictionary. When KALKAR'S dictionary is finished the task will be very much lightened. The scope of the present paper and of the preceding one is necessarily limited, since only one text is studied, and the results are not to be regarded as explaining thoroughly the

state of the language at the beginning of the seventeenth century. It is, however, interesting to be able to compare, even cursorily, the development of the Danish inflections with those of English, and by so doing we may be led perhaps to a somewhat clearer understanding of the way in which our language was affected in its earlier stages by the Scandinavian. One cannot but be struck by the many curious resemblances between Danish and English, in the development not only of the inflections but also, in no small degree, of the syntax. In the gradual wearing away of the forms and in the order of words in the sentence the two languages are, indeed, closely related. It is characteristic, too, that, just as English grammar received but slight accessions from the other tongues that at different periods had exercised so strong an influence upon the vocabulary, so Danish grammar was but slightly affected by the German, from which so large a proportion of its word-store is formed. It is with an ulterior purpose, therefore, that this seemingly trivial study of the Old Danish pronominal forms is pursued. Let us now take up in turn the remaining pronominal forms, beginning with the possessive.

The possessives occurring in our text are: *min*, my; *din*, thy; *sin*, his; *vor*, ours; and *eder*, yours. By comparison with Icelandic, we see that these forms must be derived from the genitives of the corresponding personal pronouns, which do not occur in our text. *Min* occurs unchanged in the singular, both masculine and feminine, as follows:—masculine, nom. [9. 7], dat. [40. 18], acc. [41. 14]; feminine, nom. [12. 1].—The gen., masc. and fem., and the nom. and dat. fem., do not occur.—In the neuter singular the same form occurs under different spellings: nom. *mit* [38. 12], acc. *mitt* [16. 6] and *mytt* [11. 12]. In the plural the only form that occurs is *mine*, once each as nom. [47. 21] and acc. [39. 4.]. *Din* is declined like *min*, with the exception of *dit* [92. 20], which in the MS. appears as *did*. In the sing. we find the nom. [10. 18], dat. [41. 10], and acc. [56. 13], and in the plural the nom. [11. 22]. Of the 3rd person *sin* we find the singular forms masc. acc. *sin* [5. 20], dat. *siin* [5. 5], and neuter dat. *sit* [45. 11]. *Vor* appears unchanged in all the forms of the masc.

and fem. sing. that occur. Masc. nom. [35. 14], dat. [58. 18] and acc. [29. 12], fem. nom. [35. 19]. In the plural, *vor* [70. 5] occurs as nom., *vore* [6. 4] as dat., and *voris* [20. 16] as acc. For the neuter, the only form that occurs is *vortt* [76. 22]. Only two examples occur of *eder*: masc. acc. *eders* [78. 8] and fem. acc. *eder* [34. 13].

Note 1. The possessives in this period of Old Danish show remarkably few changes from the older forms. In the 1st person plural we may notice the use of *o*, which in Icelandic occurs often side by side with *a*.

Note 2. The distinction between the masc. and the fem., still preserved in the personal pronoun, is now lost, and the common gender of Modern Danish takes its place.

The reflexive of the 3rd person, which should have been included in the preceding article, is *sig* [5. 14]. It shows the same change of *k < g*, as the first personal pronoun.

The demonstratives are *denne*, that; *disse*, this; and *saadan* [56. 17], such. In the sing. *denne* occurs unchanged, nom. [40. 20], dat. [40. 23], and acc. [41. 1]. In the plural we find dat. *dennem* [57. 4] and acc. *dennem* [59. 19]. The nom. *dett* [78. 22], dat. *dette* [46. 14], and acc. *dette* [46. 10], all in the singular, are the only forms of the neuter that occur.

*Disse* appears unchanged in the acc. sing. [32. 5], and the acc. plural [61. 20].

The demonstrative corresponding to the Old Norse *sa* appears in only few forms:

Sing. nom. neuter *dit* [87. 12], *det* [61. 10].

Plur. nom. *di* [72. 24]

Plur. acc. *di* [84. 7], *denom* [86. 6].

Note. The suffixed article, in its origin a demonstrative, is used as in Modern Danish, *en* for the common gender, *et* for the neuter.

The relatives are *som*, undeclined, occurring as nom. sing. [40. 19] and acc. sing. [44. 20]; *hvis* [85. 11], preceded by *alt* and resembling the English 'all that'; *huilckett* [44. 17], *der* [61. 12] and *den* [61. 17].

Note. Before the sixteenth century *hvis* occurs as *hues*. *Huilckett* appears in earlier Danish sometimes as *huilki*, a mere graphic difference; sometimes, by a very curious assimilation, as *huikken* and *huyken* (fifteenth century).

The interrogatives are *huem* [6. 5], who,

and *huad* [13. 1], what. *Huem* appears as nom. sing., but it reminds one strongly of the Old Norse dative *hveim*.

Of all the pronominal forms the indefinites are the most numerous. Beginning with *nog-en*, some, we find the nom. [22. 17] and acc. [45. 20], and the neuter *nogett* [75. 12] and *noget* [58. 18].

*Ingen*, no one, nom. [5. 20], acc. [74. 21] and neuter *intett* [52. 10], *intet* [53. 11] and *intheit* [87. 20].

Note. The doubling of the *t* in these two pronouns is without phonetic significance.

*Somme* [33. 7], some, appears only as nom. : as also *hon som*, [38. 9], whoever.

*Huer*, each, nom. [5. 5] and dat. [72. 14], and the extended form *huercken* [43. 9].

Note 1. *Huer* is weakened from the earlier form [1393.-1491] *hvar*, according to Old Norse *hvarr*, Old Norwegian, *hverr*. In Old Danish the distinction between "each of two" and "each of many," so consistently kept up in the Old Norse forms *hvarr* and *hvêrr* respectively, does not appear, so far as can be seen. In the two cases cited, reference is made to more than two.

Note 2. *Huercken* corresponds to Old Norse *hverge*. This change of the spirant to the voiceless explosive sometimes occurs in Old Norse under special circumstances. In the earliest of the Old Danish remains we find the spirant.

Note 3. Under the head of the second personal pronoun should be inserted the assimilation with the verb *skaltu* [62. 12]. This is the only case in the play, everywhere else the two words are separate ; as, *schalt du* [68. 7], *skalt du* [67. 9], and numerous others.

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### THE PATOIS OF THE CANTON DE VAUD.

*Phonologie des patois du Canton de Vaud.*

Par A. ODIN, Halle, 1886. VIII, 166 pp.

As the work of a beginner this treatise is promising : the choice of the subject is a good one, the plan has been ably carried out, and the faults are of such a character as may be

excused in the earliest contributions of a scholar.

Since 1874, when ASCOLI, the great Italian linguist who has done most for promoting the study of the Romance dialects, for the first time treated in his 'Schizzi francoprovenzali' the French dialects of Switzerland, Savoy, Franche-Comté and Dauphiné as a group of dialects standing by itself, distinct from the French as well as from the Provençal, the dialects of all the French Cantons of Switzerland have been made the subject of special investigation by MM. HÆFELIN and AYER (Neuchâtel and Fribourg), RITTER (Geneva), CORNU and GILLIÉRON (Valais); with the exception of the most important of them all, the dialect of the Canton de Vaud. I say the most important, because this Canton is the largest and most centrally situated of them all, and has the greatest variety of physical contours. It will therefore yield the largest variety of dialectic shades and supply the intermediate link of the whole series. By taking up this important dialect MR. ODIN has, accordingly, filled up a real gap, and, speaking in general, has done this in a very satisfactory manner. All the more so, as the task was no easy one; for the author distinguishes not less than eleven groups, one of which he further divides into seven sub-dialects.

It is true, the author might have greatly simplified this task by studying most thoroughly the dialect of one or two or even three single communes of different parts of the Canton, and by presenting a complete view of the facts. He would thus have given an idea of the whole dialect as well,—an idea which, though not complete, would at least have been a consistent one. In this way, I should say, one ought always to proceed in studying for the first time a dialect of great variety. The language of one or two places having been fixed in a manner that can be in every sense relied upon, subsequent investigation will easily supply the peculiarities of the rest.

MR. ODIN, however, having aimed at the higher object of giving a general survey of the dialect of the "pays de Vaud," we have only to accept his work as it stands. He seems, indeed, to have had sufficient information at his command for the purpose intended, and